

Message Text

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SUBJ: LABOR CHIEF LAMA EXPANDS ON NEW LABOR POLICY

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1. SUMMARY. IN A COMPREHENSIVE NEWSPAPER INTERVIEW, THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE COMMUNIST-DICTATED CGIL, LAMA, ELABORATES ON THE NEW POLICIES RECENTLY ADOPTED BY ITALY'S THREE LABOR CONFEDERATIONS. THESE INCLUDE THE "REINTRODUCTION" OF THE POSSIBILITY OF DISMISSING REDUNDANT WORKERS, LIMITATIONS ON THE USE OF THE WAGE SUPPLEMENT FUND AND THE SEVERE CONTAINMENT OF NEW WAGE DEMANDS. LAMA STATES THAT, WHILE THESE POLICIES WOULD BE ENHANCED BY "A SOCIALLY AND POLITICALLY REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT," LABOR IS DETERMINED TO SEE THEM THROUGH REGARDLESS
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OF THE OUTCOME OF THE CURRENT POLITICAL CRISIS. END SUMMARY.

2. IN A NEWSPAPER INTERVIEW, LUCIANO LAMA, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE COMMUNIST-DOMINATED LABOR CONFEDERATION CGIL, HAS ELABORATED THE NEW LABOR POLICIES RECENTLY ADOPTED BY THE TRI-CONFEDERATIONAL (CCU) EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (REFTELS). LAMA STATES THAT A) ENTERPRISES WHICH HAVE MANPOWER IN EXCESS

OF THEIR PRODUCTIVE NEEDS OUGHT TO BE ALLOWED TO DISMISS THE REDUNDANT WORKERS, B) ACCESS TO THE WAGE SUPPLEMENT FUND (WHICH PAYS HIGH BENEFITS TO LAID-OFF WORKERS) SHOULD BE LIMITED TO ONE YEAR, C) AN AGENCY WHICH CONTROLS AND COORDINATES DISMISSALS AND JOB PLACEMENTS SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED, D) ABSOLUTE PRIORITY IN FILLING NEW JOBS SHOULD BE GIVEN TO DISMISSED WORKERS, EVEN AHEAD OF FIRST-TIME JOB SEEKERS, AND E) NEW WAGE DEMANDS SHOULD BE SEVERELY "CONTAINED" AND PHASED IN DURING THE THREE-YEAR PERIOD OF EACH NEW CONTRACT'S VALIDITY.

3. ASKED WHETHER THESE LABOR POLICIES ARE PREDICATED ON A SPECIFIC GOVERNMENTAL FORMULA, LAMA RESPONDED: "CERTAINLY, THE PROPOSITION OF A SOCIALLY AND POLITICALLY REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT WOULD FACILITATE THE APPROVAL OF OUR LINE. THE REASONS ARE SELF-EVIDENT. BUT OUR DECISION IS COMPLETELY INDEPENDENT OF THE TYPE OF GOVERNMENTAL FORMULA WHICH WILL ULTIMATELY BE ADOPTED. THE LABOR FEDERATION (CCU) HAS TAKEN ITS DECISIONS IN THE DARK WITH RESPECT TO THE POLITICAL SOTUTIONS AND IS COMMITTED TO PRESS FORWARD WITH THEM REGARDLESS OF THE OUTCOME OF THE POLITICAL CRISIS." ASKED WHETHER THIS MEANT HE WAS INDIFFERENT TO THE NATURE OF THE POLITICAL SOTUTION, LAMA ANSWERED: "NOT AT ALL. IT MEANS THERE ARE OBJECTIVES EVEN MORE IMPORTANT THAN PARTY LOYALTY".

4. WHILE ASSERTING THAT THESE DECISIONS WERE TAKEN UNANIMOUSLY BY LAOR LEADERSHIP, LAMA CONCEDES THAT THERE ARE MANY
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IN THE LABOR MOVEMENT WHO ARE OPPOSED TO THEM, AND THAT THERE REMAINS A SELLING JOB TO BE PEFORMED IN FACTORY ASSEMBLIES. AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE INTERVIEW, LAMA SAYS HE IS PUTTING HIS OWN TRADE UNION POSITION ON THE LINE TO SEE THESE POLICIES THROUGH. "IF THESE OBJECTIVES ARE NOT ACCEPTED (BY THE WORKERS), I WILL DRAW MY PERSONAL CONCLUSIONS." HOWEVER, HE EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT THE PROGRAM WOULD MEET WITH BROAD APPROVAL.

5. THE INTERVIEW, CARRIED IN THE JANUARY 24 EDITION OF THE LWFT-WING DAILY "LA REPUBBLICA", EXPANDS ON STATEMENTS LAMA HAS GIVEN IN RECENT DAYS TO OTHER PUBLICATIONS. BECAUSE LAMA IS EASILY THE MOST IMPORTANT FIGURE IN ITALIAN LABOR, AND BEAUSE THESE NEW POLICY PROPOSALS REPRESENT A SHARP DEPARTURE FROM LABOR POLICY WHICH HAS PREVAILED HERETOFORE, THE "LA REPUBBLICA" INTERVIEW IS EING FORWADED SEPARATELY IN COMPLETE TRANSLATION.
GARDNER

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